

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method to utilize unscheduled bandwidth in a calendar-based VC scheduling scheme by caching a plurality of virtual connections for processing. A plurality of virtual connection addresses are stored in a cache memory. A virtual connection corresponding to one of these addresses is processed if one of the

- 5 time periods for transmitting on the trunk is liable to be wasted because no cell is available through the normal calendaring algorithm. A VC cache is added to the VC scheduler in "parallel" with the calendar-based scheduler. When the calendar-based scheduler has a time period in which no VC is scheduled for transmission on the trunk, a VC address is obtained from the cache and that VC
- 10 is processed. What makes this scheme work is the observation that the VCs that have been active will have more cells to transmit.